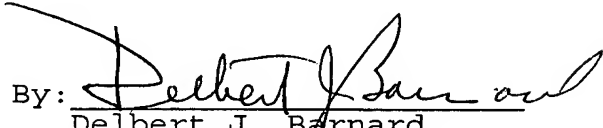


the prior art. Accordingly, early consideration and allowance of this application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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DJB/lam